AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for entering a character string comprising:

an input part for entering a character string;

an input situation acquiring part for acquiring a situation ~~for entering a character string~~ of a character inputting device that has been started or an activated program, into which a character string is input;

a situation control part for affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a dictionary in accordance with a situation acquired with the input situation acquiring part and designating it as a situation–optimized dictionary;

a candidate character string generation part for generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for the situation in response to a character string that is entered with the input part, using the situation–optimized dictionary designated by the situation control part;

a candidate character string affirmation processing part for affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

an affirmed character string storing part for storing a character string that has been affirmed with the affirmation processing part in the situation–optimized dictionary designated by the situation control part under a condition that the character string is associated with a situation acquired with the input situation acquiring part, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, wherein situations acquired by the input situation acquiring part comprise at least one information selected from the group consisting of:

information relating to a character string processing device to which the output candidate character string is given;

information relating to an application program to which an output candidate character string is given;

information relating to a text that the character string processing device, to which the output candidate character string is given, can output;

information relating to a position in a text that the character string processing device, to which the output candidate character string is given, can output; and

information relating to a user inputting the character string.

3.   (CANCELED)

4.   (CANCELED)

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, wherein

the affirmed character string storing part stores a storage date of an affirmed character string as a last–access date when storing the affirmed character string;

the date when a character string that is already stored is accessed is used to change the last–access date; and

the last-access date is used when the candidate character string generation part generates the output candidate character string.

6.   (CANCELED)

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, further comprising a situation–optimized dictionary production part for producing a situation–optimized dictionary by associating character strings that are used in a pre–existing electronic text with information relating to a user creating the electronic text, information relating to a time when the electronic text has been created, and information relating to a character string processing apparatus by which the electronic text has been created.

8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for entering a character string comprising:
      entering a character string;
      acquiring a situation of a character inputting device that has been started or an activated program, into which a character string is input for entering a character string;
      affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a

dictionary in accordance with an acquired situation designating it as a situation–optimized dictionary;

generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for a situation in response to an entered character string, using the designated situation–optimized dictionary;

affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

storing an affirmed character string in the situation–optimized dictionary under a condition that the character string is associated with an acquired situation, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer–readable recording medium storing a program, to be executed on a computer, the program comprising:

entering a character string;

acquiring a situation of a character inputting device that has been started or an activated program, into which a character string is inputfor entering a character string;

affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a dictionary in accordance with an acquired situation designating it as a situation–optimized dictionary;

generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for a situation in response to an entered character string, using the designated situation–optimized dictionary;

affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

storing an affirmed character string in the situation–optimized dictionary under a condition that the character string is associated with an acquired situation, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

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